March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 17

Distant Thunder (PART 1)

3月のライオン

Hajime Sanguetsu
Chara Umino

When I was small, I once saw lightning in broad daylight.

My breath was taken away
by that short-lived moment,

even though that radiance...

was followed by

heavy and violent rain.

DON'T YOU LOOK WELL.

WHY...

ARE YOU HERE?

WHY?

DON'T BE SILLY.

AN OLDER SISTER, WORRIED ABOUT HER LITTLE BROTHER WHO JUST STARTED LIVING ON HIS OWN, COMES TO SEE HIM.

IS THAT SO UNUSUAL?

WHAT?

I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION. IT'S VERY LATE.

WON'T YOU LET ME IN? I DID COME ALL THE WAY HERE.

WHY NOT?

BE-CAUSE...

IT'S REALLY MESSY...

THAT'S FINE. LEMME SEE.

THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO SEE.

PFT. YOU'RE A BAD LIAR, YOU IDIOT.

IF THERE *"ISN'T MUCH"*, HOW CAN IT BE "REALLY MESSY"?

NO, YOU CAN'T. THE LAST TRAIN WILL LEAVE SOON...

SFX: GA (BANG)

MY FEET ARE COLD!

I WANT TO USE THE WASHROOM!

REALLY.

DO I HAVE TO SPELL EVERYTHING OUT, YOU IDIOT?

SFX: CHAPU... (PLUNK...)

HEY, HOW OLD IS THIS PLACE?

IT LOOKS REALLY SHABBY FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT THE INSIDE IS SURPRISINGLY NICE.

Whew...

FINALLY. THAT FEELS BETTER.

SFX: POCHAN... (DRIP...)

HEY.

THANKS.

WHY DID YOU MOVE TO THIS PART OF TOWN?

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TIES TO THIS PLACE, RIGHT?

Heeey, Reeei. Get me a towel.

HMM, AREN'T YOU LUCKY—

THE BUILDING IS 26 YEARS OLD.

BUT THE LANDLORD RENOVATED IT RECENTLY...

SFX: ZAA (RUSTLE)

RIVER?

WHAT...

YOU HAVE A THING FOR RIVERS?

...AND I THOUGHT THAT THE RIVER HERE WAS VERY WIDE AND BEAUTIFUL.

I CAME HERE ONCE BEFORE BECAUSE OF WORK.

HEY.
THIS ROOM IS REALLY COLD.
EH?
CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT?
AH...
THE AC IS OLD, SO IT DOESN'T WORK VERY WELL...
EVEN AFTER LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF FOR TEN YEARS,
WE STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT EACH OTHER, HUH...
HMM.
RIVERS,
HUH...

SFX: FUKA FUKA (FLUFF FLUFF)

IT REALLY IS A GIFT.
AH, SO MEAN.
WHAT'S THIS? ISN'T THIS A HIGH-CLASS FUTON?
THAT'S ...
A GIFT FROM SOME-ONE...
YOUR SCENT ISN'T EVEN ON IT YET.
HMM.
Hey! Don't just go opening things!

SFX: BOSA (PUFF)
SFX: BOFU (SWISH)

WOW, THE VIEW'S NICE.

IS THIS REALLY THE 6TH FLOOR?

IT FEELS SO HIGH. IS IT BECAUSE THE RIVER IS LOW?

I SEE...

SO YOU LIVE HERE.

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?

WHO'S YOUR GUARAN-TOR?

THE HEAD OF THE JINGUU TEMPLE...

LOOKING AND MAKING DECISIONS BY YOURSELF...

YOU REALLY ARE HEAD-STRONG.

FATHER'S BEEN FEELING DOWN, YOU KNOW.

HM, OF COURSE...

THAT PERSON IS SO SOFT ON YOU.

NO.

DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH FATHER...?

OR RATHER, WE HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN EACH OTHER

I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK AT ALL LATELY.

KYO-KO-SAN

THE LAST TRAIN

WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME?

TO THAT HOUSE

IT WOULD MAKE FATHER HAPPY.

HEY. LEND ME A SHIRT.

I'M SLEEPY

.....

WHAT A RELIEF

.....

ARE YOU STILL WITH THAT GUY?

THERE'S

NO SCAR...

GOTOU

GOT OUT OF HAND...

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

THAT MAN IS BAD FOR YOU.

HE DOESN'T RAISE HIS HAND AT YOU?

HIM? AT ME?

NO WAY

BUT EVEN IF HE DID .

DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD JUST LET HIM HIT ME?

I'D STAB HIM

IN HIS SLEEP.

I'D NEVER LET HIM WAKE UP AGAIN.

.....

YOU'D GO THAT FAR?

YEAH.

BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.

I LOVE HIM A LOT.

SFX: PI (BEEP)

SFX: PI (BEEP) (BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP)

SFX: BA (CLACK)

.....

COULDN'T SLEEP?

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

DON'T YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY? A RANKING MATCH?

Yaawn

Un

WHO'S YOUR OPPONENT AGAIN?

RIGHT, RIGHT, MATSUNAGA-SAN.

HOW OLD IS HE NOW? 64... 65?

WOULDN'T SWITCH TO THE FREE CLASS EVEN AFTER HE FELL TO C1, HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE... A WORKAHOLIC, I GUESS?

PRETTY HARD-WORKING.

I'VE SEEN HIM PLAY WITH FATHER.

THAT STUBBORN BRAND OF SHOGI,

IT WAS SO LAME.

HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP EVEN WHEN HE WAS DEMOTED.

HE MUST REALLY LOVE SHOGI...

UNLIKE YOU.

AHH,

THAT'S RIGHT.

IF MATSU-NAGA-SAN CONTINUES TO FALL FROM C1, HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO RETIRE.

...ISN'T IT DEPRESSING?

IT'S LIKE TAKING AN OLD DOG FOR A WALK WITH A TIGHT LEASH AROUND ITS NECK.

NOBODY WANTS TO BE THE ONE TO DO THAT.

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED.

I WONDER... WOULD YOU END UP PURPOSELY LOSING TO HIM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

BECAUSE YOU'RE SO KIND.

...YOU KNOW.

Her hair as she walked out the door

caught the sunlight for just an instant. — And then,

ultimately, that light would bring on a storm.

Chapter 17 end